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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

April 20, 1999

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to express my concerns about the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that the FCC has begun on the issue of low-power FM, also referred to as microradio.

It is my understanding that one of the major tasks that the FCC is clearly responsible for is the assurance that our broadcast and other services are maintained in an interference-free environment. How could the Commission possibly think that adding these low-power stations would do anything but create more interference? Unless second and third channel interference protections are reduced, there can be no low-power FM stations added to most major markets. We already have enough interference problems to contend with. How could the public benefit from such action? It will not.

It is also my understanding that the Commission thinks that microradio will create more opportunity for minority and female ownership. Even if a station did become available in a particular area, there is absolutely no guarantee that minority and female owners will want or actually receive a license-whether they are allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis or through an auction process. In addition, the economic viability of low-power stations is definitely in question.

The Commission continues to be burdened with "pirate radio" operators. You sincerely think that low-power stations will do away with "pirate radio." On the contrary, I expect to see "pirates" emboldened by the proliferation of new low-power stations. They will figure that the FCC is going to be so busy dealing with

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all the new stations to even notice an unlicensed station thrown into the mix and they will probably be right. Most of them will not even bother to apply for a real license. Those who do apply, but do not win a license, may well go back to their pirate ways.

I have heard the Commission's perspective about the current lack of programming diversity. Again, on the contrary, consolidation has greatly increased program diversity. No longer is each market overrun with FM's butting heads to dominate Adult Contemporary, Country or Rock. Instead, superduopoly owners have broadened format choices, not to mention the phenomenal growth of Hispanic formats like Tejano, Tropical, and Spanish Talk. Program diversity is alive and well.

I have been in this business for twenty-five (25) years. I have seen my share of Notice of Proposed Rulemakings. The FCC's low-power radio plan may sound good in theory, but in reality, the government appears to be searching for a solution to a problem which does not exist. Low-power radio would cause nothing but chaos to an already congested radio spectrum, the result of which would be a reduction in services to our respective communities.

I urge you and your fellow commissioners to stop this one in its tracks. Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David M. Perzain".

DPM/ilj